

***An important message
from a panel participant***

"You can't change the past... but I do believe you can change the future.

Speaking to offenders and others about my experience, I challenge those listening to remember my story when faced with decisions as they go forward.

If I can teach just one person to consider the potential impact of their choices... I've transformed my loss into something meaningful and positive."
- Andrea Varney



Vermont Department of Corrections
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, Vermont 05671-1001

Offering victim/survivors of DUI and reckless driving an opportunity to be heard.

Vermont Victim Impact Panel Program

Toll free

1-888-810-1847

1-888- 810-1VIP

A program of the
Vermont Department of Corrections
Victim Services Program
103 South Main Street
(802) 241-2302

The Purpose of a Victim Impact Panel

Victim impact panels give victim/survivors of DUI and reckless driving a way to share their personal experiences. Participating as an impact panelist can be a helpful part of a victim's healing process and often influences a change in the behavior of those listening.

•Who participates in this panel?

Three to four Victims/survivors, and family members or friends of the victim make up the panel. Police officers and emergency response personnel may also participate as panelists to talk about the impact DUI and reckless driving has had on them.

•Who is in the audience?

Requests for speakers come from Driver's Education Classes, Department of Corrections DUI Impact Program, schools and community organizations. Audience size can range from 8 to 100.

The offender who directly injured the Victim/survivor is **not** in the audience.

The Goals of a Victim Impact

- To give Victim/Survivors the opportunity to share their story and be heard
- To educate DUI offenders, justice professionals, students and community members about the physical, emotional and financial consequences of impaired or reckless driving.

"I feel that by sharing my story someone may realize that their actions may save themselves, or someone they care about, a lot of heartache."

-Donna Zabrosky



"Speaking on the Impact Panel helps me come to terms with my son's death. I know that I am honoring my son's life by doing something to prevent someone else from living through my grief"

-Linda Russell

How to apply to be on a Victim Impact Panel

Victims and others who have been affected by a DUI or reckless driving are encouraged to call to find out more about being on a panel. The criteria for participating includes the following:

- the criminal case (if there is one) has been concluded
- at least a year has passed since

A high percentage of offenders attending Victim Impact Panels report that they are affected by the victim's story and acknowledge the lifelong impact the crime of DUI has had on the victim's life

For more information or to learn how you can participate on a Victim Impact Panel contact:

Ariel Brugger

1-888-810-1847 (1VIP)

Or vvipp@verizon.net